

# The Historiographer

of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut

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HP. SAMUEL SEABURY  
ISSUE

1



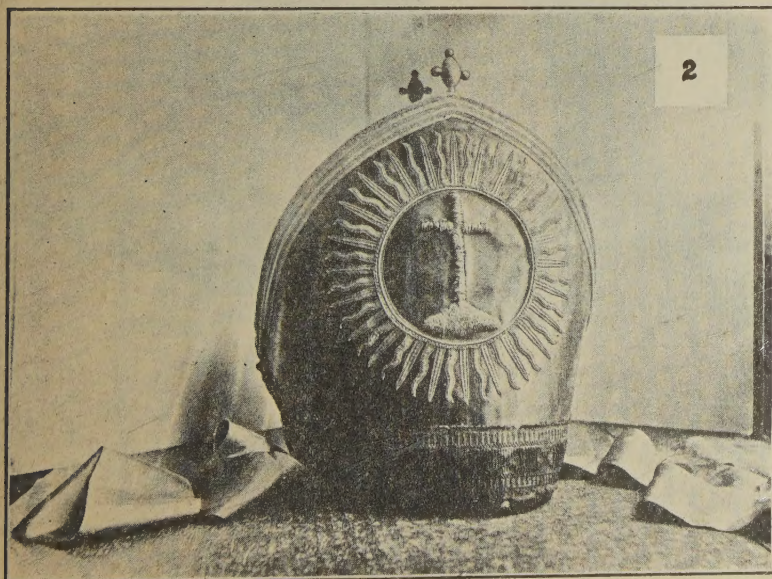
We are asking our readers to help us bring to light any portraits, engravings or "interpretations" of the first Bishop of Connecticut not recorded in this number of The Historiographer.

(1) is an engraving by J. C. Buttre. (2) is the famous mitre, now owned by Trinity College and on display in the Treasure Room of the College Chapel. Interesting details about its origin appear in the Historical Magazine of the P. E. Church for December, 1952, pp. 442-443. (3) is Douche's famous portrait, owned by the Diocese of Connecticut. (4) is an unknown engraver's interpretation of Douche's original. (5) is the Seabury Window in St. Giles' Church, Cambridge, England. (6) Location and painter unknown. (7) Carved figure in the reredos of Trinity Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma. (See the article, "One Through the Ages," by the Rev. Edward H. Eckel in Episcopal Churchnews, Aug. 10, 1952.

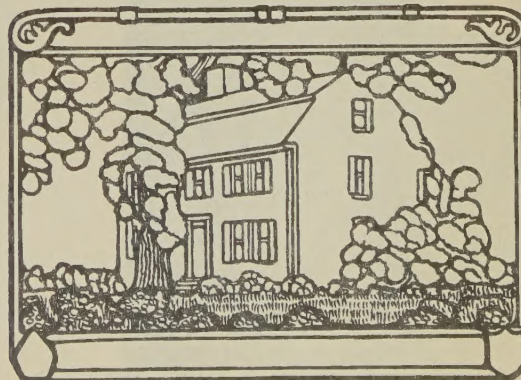
We are happy to announce that Trinity Church of Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin, is planning a Seabury

window, the eleventh in a series now being made in Germany. The window will cost about \$1,000, according to the Rev. G. F. White, rector.

In this issue we bring you the first reproductions of the recently discovered Seabury documents, found in a sealed room at the General Theological Seminary in New York. Photostatic copies were presented to the Diocesan Archives by Mrs. George Goss of Middlebury, Connecticut, who also presented a set to the museum at the Glebe House in Woodbury.



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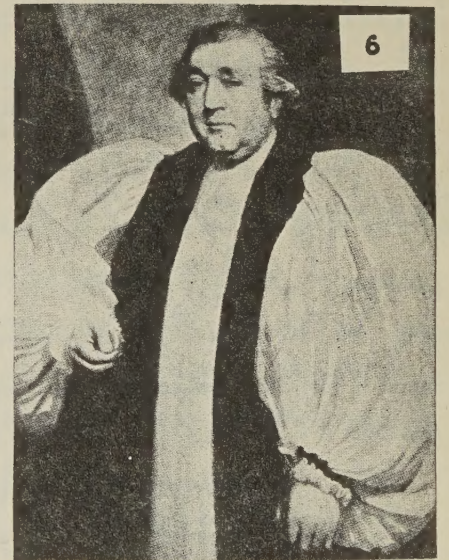
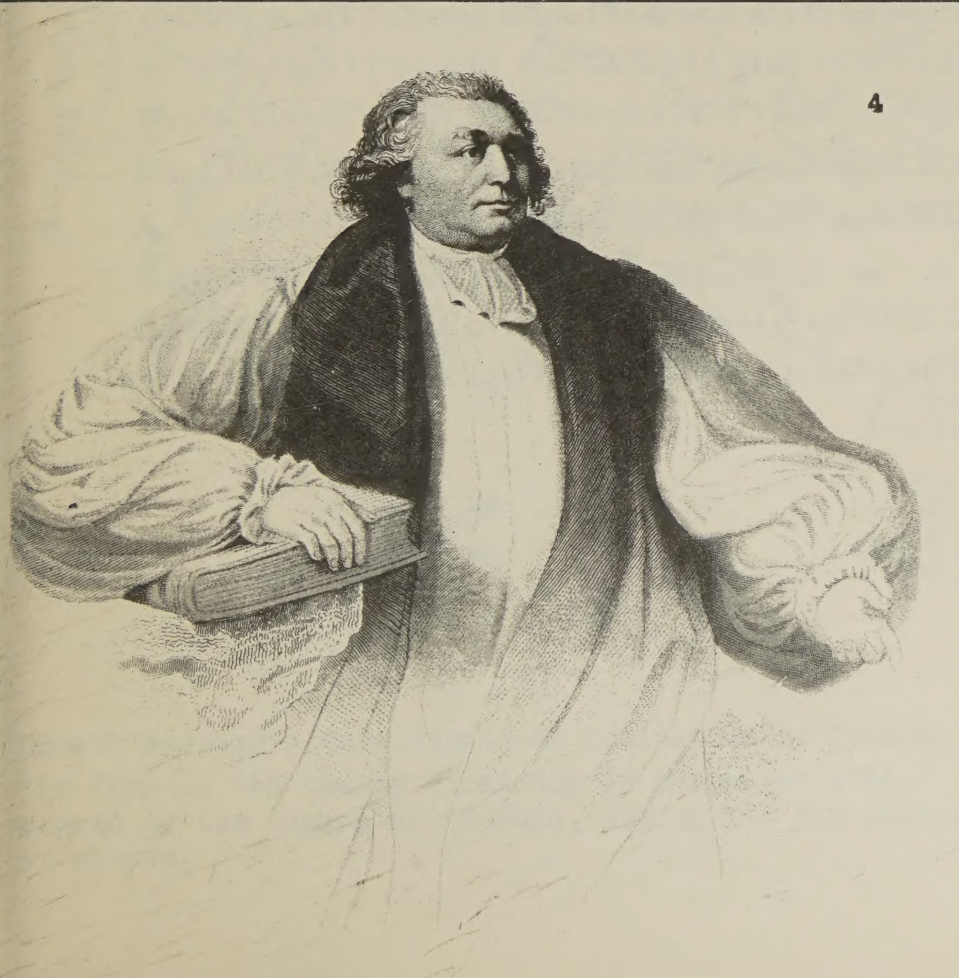


THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN EPISCOPACY  
Glebe House, Woodbury, Connecticut















Registered in the Registry of London

John by divine permission Bishop of Lincoln  
To all to whom these presents shall come or come to  
they may in any wise concern. Know ye  
that at an ordination holden by us with the aid  
and assistance of almighty God at the request  
and in the stead of the right reverend father  
in god Thomas by divine permission Lord  
Bishop of London in his Lordship's palace at  
Whitehall in the County of Middlesex on ffryday  
the twenty first day of December in the year of our  
said one thousand seven hundred and fifty three  
we did admit and procure our beloved in Christ  
Samuel Seabury  
to the holy order of a Deacon according to the  
rights and ceremonies of the Church of England  
in that behalf published and provided, he having  
been well recommended to his Lordship for his  
good life and virtuous attainments and  
proficiency in learning with a sufficient title,  
and having been also first examined and approved  
by the Examiner of the said Lord Bishop. In  
testimony whereof we have caused the  
Episcopal Seal of London to be hereunto  
affixed Dated the day and year above written and  
in the tenth year of our translation.

W. Skelton Secy.

John

Lincoln

Samuel Seabury's Certificate of Ordination as Deacon,  
"on ffryday the twenty first day of December" 1753,  
signed by the Bishop of Lincoln, acting for the Bishop  
of London.

One of the  
recently dis-  
covered documents  
in the General  
Seminary, N. Y. C.







# To the Episcopal Clergy in Connecticut in North America.

Reverend Brethren, and well-beloved in Christ—

Whereas it has been represented to us the Bishops of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, by the Reverend Dr Samuel Seabury, your fellow Presbyter in Connecticut, that you are desirous to have the blessings of a free, valid, and purely Ecclesiastical Episcopacy communicated to you, and that you do consider the Scottish Episcopacy to be such in every sense of the Word: And the said Dr Seabury having been sufficiently recommended to us, as a person very fit for the Episcopate, and having also satisfied us that you were willing to acknowledge and submit to him, as your Bishop, a person properly authorized to take the Charge of you in that Character:—We therefore, dearly beloved, that we the Bishops, and under Christ, the Governors, by regular Succession, of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, considering the Reasonableness of your Request, and being entirely satisfied with the Recommendations in favour of the said Dr Samuel Seabury, have accordingly promoted him to the high Order of the Episcopate, by the laying on of our hands, and have thereby invested him with proper powers for governing, and performing all Episcopal Offices in the Church in Connecticut. And having thus far complied with your Desire, and done what was incumbent on us, to keep up the Episcopal Succession in a part of the Christian Church, which is now by mutual Agreement loosed from, and given up by, those who once took the Charge of it, permit us therefore Reverend Brethren to request your hearty and sincere assistance to further and carry on the good Work we have happily begun. To this end, we hope, you will receive and acknowledge the Right Reverend Bishop Seabury as your Bishop, and spiritual Governor, that you will pay him all due and canonical Obedience in that sacred Character, and reverently apply to him for all Episcopal Offices, which you, or the people committed to your pastoral care, may stand in need of at his hands, like thro the Goodness of God, the Number of Bishops be increased among you and the State of Connecticut be divided into separate Districts or Dioceses, as is the case in other parts of the Christian World. This Recommendation we flatter ourselves, you will take in good part from the Governors of a Church which cannot be suspected of aiming at Supremacy of any kind, or over any people. Unacquainted as we are with the Politics of Nations, and under no temptation to interfere in Matters foreign to us, we have no other Object in view but the Interests of the Mediator's Kingdom, no higher Ambition than to do our Duty as Messengers of the Prince of Peace. In the Discharge of this Duty, the Example we wish to copy after is that of the primitive Church, while in a similar Situation, unconnected with, and unsupported by the temporal Powers. On this footing, it is our earnest Desire that the Episcopal Church in Connecticut be in full Communion with the Episcopal Church in Scotland, as we the undersigned Bishops for ourselves, and our Successors in Office agree to hold Communion with Bishop Seabury and his Successors, as practised in the various provinces of the primitive Church, in all the fundamental Articles of Faith, and by mutual Intercourse of Ecclesiastical Correspondence, and brotherly fellowship, when Opportunity offers, or Necessity requires. Upon this plan, which we hope will meet your joint Approbation, and according to this Standard of primitive practice, a Concordate has been drawn up and signed by us, the Bishops of the Church in Scotland, on the one part, and by Bishop Seabury on the other, the Articles of which are to serve as a Bond of Union between the Catholic Remains of the ancient Church of Scotland, and the now rising Church in the State of Connecticut. Of this Concordate, a Copy is herewith sent for your Satisfaction; And after having duly weighed the several Articles of it, we hope you will find them all both expedient, and equitable, dictated by a Spirit of Christian Meekness, and proceeding from a pure Regard to Regularity and good Order. As such we most earnestly recommend them to your serious Attention, and, with all brotherly Love, inbreath your hearty and sincere Compliance with them. A Concordate thus established in mutual good Faith and Confidence, will, by the blessing of God, make our Ecclesiastical Union firm and lasting; And we have no other Desire but to render it conducive to that peace, and agreeable to that Truth, which it ever has been, and shall be, our Study to seek after and cultivate. And may the God of Peace grant you to be true-minded: May He, who is the great High Priest of our Profession, the Shepherd and Bishop of our Souls prosper these our Endeavours for the propagation of his Truth and Righteousness: May he graciously accept our imperfect Services, grant Success to our good Designs, and make his Church to be yet glorious upon Earth, and the Joy of all Lands. To his divine Benediction, we heartily commend you, your Flocks, and your Labours, and are

Reverend Sirs

Your affectionate Brethren and fellow-Servants in Christ

Aberdeen November 15<sup>th</sup> 1704.

From the original parchment brought by Bishop Seabury from Scotland to Connecticut, now in the Archives of the Diocese of Connecticut in Hartford.

Robert Kilgour Bishop of Aberdeen.

Arthur Pitblair Bishop of Brechin.

John Thomson Bishop of Dunblane.







*H. WILLIAMS*, by *deane purvis*, Bishop of Connecticut and  
 Rhode Island, To all whom it may concern, Know ye, that at  
 an ordination held, under the protection of Almighty God, in  
 Christ's Church in Middletown in Connecticut, on the fifth  
 day of June One thousand seven hundred and ninety three  
 We the Bishop above mentioned did solemnly admit our  
 beloved in Christ, Charles Seabury (of whose morals,  
 learning, sound doctrine and diligence we were well  
 satisfied) unto the holy order of DEACONS: And then  
 the said Charles, Seabury did then and there rightly  
 and canonically ordain DEACONS: We having first  
 made and subscribed the declaration required of him  
 , In testimony whereof We have hereunto affixed our  
 Episcopal Seal at New London in Connecticut,  
 the 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 1793 And in the ninth year  
 of our Consecration.

*Samuel Bp. Connect. & Rh. Isl.*

Charles Seabury's Certificate of Or-  
 dination to the Diaconate, dated Oct.  
 30, 1793, indicates that the ordina-  
 tion took place on June 5. Burgess's  
 List incorrectly gives the date as  
 July 5.

Bishop Seabury's Seal is still being  
 used by Connecticut Diocesans. Quite  
 recently, the Seabury Press at Green-  
 wich adapted it for use as a trademark.  
 (See sketch on the far right.)

